



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Silver Spring, MD 20910

NMFS Adjusts General Category Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Retention Limit for September-December 2008

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) adjusts the daily Atlantic bluefin tuna (BFT) retention limit for vessels permitted in the commercial Atlantic tunas General category and the Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Charter/Headboat category for the time period of September 1, 2008, through December 31, 2008, from the default limit of one large medium or giant BFT to three large medium or giant BFT (measuring 73 inches curved fork length or greater) per vessel per day/trip. Regardless of the duration of a fishing trip, no more than the daily retention limit may be on board a vessel. This action effectively maintains the General category daily retention limit that applied June 1, 2008, through August 31, 2008, for the remainder of the fishing year. These BFT retention limits are effective for all areas, except for the Gulf of Mexico. The Gulf of Mexico is designated as spawning grounds for BFT and therefore NMFS does not allow vessels to target BFT while fishing in this area.

NMFS may determine that additional actions are necessary to ensure available quota is not exceeded or to enhance scientific data collection from, and fishing opportunities in, all geographic areas. Subsequent adjustments to the daily retention limits, if any, will be announced through publication in the Federal Register. In addition, permit holders may visit the following website: www.hmspermits.gov, or call the Atlantic Tunas Information Line at (888) 872-8862 or (978) 281-9260 for updates on quota monitoring and retention limit adjustments.

This notice is a courtesy to BFT fishery permit holders to help keep you informed about your fishery. Official notice of Federal fishery actions is made through filing such notice with the Office of the Federal Register. For further information, contact Sarah McLaughlin or Brad McHale at (978) 281-9260.

Emily Menashes
for Alan D. Risenhoover
Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries

8/26/2008
Date

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